GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3951
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
BREAST CANCER RISK IN MEN
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether men are also prone to breast cancer;

(b) whether doctors are of the view that since men do not have much of breast tissue, the cancer is more aggressive and spreads faster;

(c) whether there has been a perceptible increase in cases of breast cancer among men of late;

(d) if so, the main causes of breast cancer among men;

(e) whether the minimum age at which people develop breast cancer has come down; and

(f) if so, the preventive steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e): Men are also prone to Breast Cancer. However, the disease is rare among men. Due to small number and limited follow up it is not possible to assess the trends of breast cancer incidence among men. As reported by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), information from the National Cancer Institute of USA indicates that overall survival of males suffering from breast cancer is similar to that of women with breast cancer. The predisposing risk factors include radiation exposure, estrogen administration, and diseases associated with hyperestrogenism such as Cirrhosis or Klinefelter`s syndrome. There are definite familial tendencies with an increased incidence seen in men, who have a number of female relatives with breast cancer. However, considering the very few number of male breast cancer cases occurring, it is not possible to conclusively comment on the trends of age at occurrence.

(f): All the schemes under the National Cancer Control Programme have since been revised. Special emphasis is now being laid on early detection of Cancer through screening, promoting health education, creating awareness etc. under District Cancer Control Programme to be implemented through the nodal agencies in districts identified by State Governments.